

In the Claims

1 - 17. (cancelled)

18. (currently amended) A method of operating a telecommunications system in which mobile terminals communicate with base station transceivers over an air interface, a communication to another user terminal being supported in macrodiversity by radio links between a plurality of base station transceivers and a mobile terminal, the radio links in macrodiversity having a set of common radio link configuration parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting a radio link configuration change message to each of the plurality of base station transceivers and the mobile terminal, the radio link configuration change message defining a new transport format set which represents a combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links; and

waiting before implementation of the radio link configuration change using the new meaning of the transport format set until an acknowledgement has been received from at least one base station transceiver in transmitting communication with the mobile terminal, at least one base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal and the mobile terminal.

19. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the waiting step includes waiting for confirmation from a base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal which provides a minimum quality of service.

20. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, further comprising the step of transmitting a radio link configuration apply message after receipt of the confirmation messages.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim 20, wherein the apply message is transmitted first to the mobile terminal for application of the new configuration to uplink messages from the mobile terminal, and the apply message is transmitted to the base station transceivers for application of the new configuration to transmissions in the downlink only after receipt of uplink transmissions in accordance with the new configuration.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein a change in common configuration is detected by a change in a property of received signals.

23. (previously presented) The method according to claim 22, wherein the property is the polarity of error detection data.

24. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the radio links include dedicated channels for the transmission of control data and user data between the mobile terminal and the plurality of base station transceivers, and transmissions on the dedicated channels include a transmit format combination indicator for indicating the currently valid combination of common transmission parameters of the radio links.

25. (previously presented) The method according to claim 18, wherein the common radio link configuration includes at least one of transport block size, transport block set size, transmission time interval, type of channel coding, type of channel interleaving, rate matching or a combination of these.

26. (currently amended) A telecommunication system in which mobile terminals communicate with base station transceivers over an air interface, a communication between a mobile terminal in macrodiversity and another user terminal being connected by radio links to a plurality of base station transceivers, the radio links having a set of common radio link configuration parameters, the system comprising:

a network element adapted for transmitting a change in radio link configuration message to the plurality of base station transceivers and the mobile terminal, the radio link configuration change message defining a new meaning for a transport format set which represents a combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links, and for waiting before using the new meaning of the transport format set ~~application of the change in configuration~~ for an acknowledgement of the receipt of the change message from at least one the base station transceiver in transmitting communication with the mobile terminal, at least one base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal and the mobile terminal.

27. (previously presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein the system is adapted to wait for confirmation from a base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal which provides a minimum quality of service.

28. (previously presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein the mobile terminal is adapted to change a property of transmissions on change of the uplink configuration.

29. (previously presented) The system according to claim 28, wherein the change in property is the polarity of error detection data.

30. (previously presented) The system according to claim 26, wherein the network element is also adapted to transmit a radio link configuration apply message after receipt of the confirmation messages.

31. (previously presented) The system according to claim 30, wherein the network element is adapted to transmit the apply message first to the mobile terminal for application of the new configuration to uplink messages from the mobile terminal, and to transmit the apply message to the base station transceivers for application of the new configuration to transmissions in the

downlink only after receipt of uplink transmissions in accordance with the new configuration.

32. (currently amended) A network element for use in a telecommunication system in which mobile terminals communicate with base station transceivers over an air interface, a communication between a mobile terminal in macrodiversity and another user terminal being connected by radio links to a plurality of base station transceivers, the radio links having a set of common radio link configuration parameters, the network element being adapted for transmitting a change in radio link configuration message to the plurality of base station transceivers and the mobile terminal, the radio link configuration change message defining a new meaning for a transport format set which represents a combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links, and for waiting before using the new meaning of the transport format set application of the change in configuration for an acknowledgement of the receipt of the change message from at least one the base station transceiver transmitting messages to the mobile terminal, at least one base station transceiver receiving messages from the mobile terminal and the mobile terminal.

33. (previously presented) The network element according to claim 32, wherein the network element is adapted to wait for confirmation from a base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal which provides a minimum quality of service.

34. (currently amended) A method of operating network element in a telecommunications system in which mobile terminals may communicate with base station transceivers over an air interface, a communication to another user terminal being supported in macrodiversity by radio links between a plurality of base station transceivers and a mobile terminal, the radio links having a set of common radio link configuration parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

transmitting from the network element a radio link configuration change message to each of the plurality of base station transceivers and the mobile terminal, the radio link configuration change message defining a new meaning for a transport format set which represents a combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links; and

waiting before using the new meaning of the transport format set ~~applying the radio link configuration change~~ until an acknowledgement has been received from at least one base station transceiver transmitting messages to the mobile terminal, at least one base station transceiver receiving messages from the mobile terminal and the mobile terminal.

35. (previously presented) The method according to claim 34, wherein the waiting step includes waiting for confirmation from a base station transceiver in receiving communication with the mobile terminal which provides a minimum quality of service.

36. (currently amended) A mobile terminal for use in a telecommunications system in which the mobile terminal may communicate with base station transceivers over an air interface, a communication to another user terminal being supported in macrodiversity by radio links between a plurality of base station transceivers and the mobile terminal, the radio links having a set of common radio link configuration parameters, the mobile terminal being adapted to receive a radio link configuration change message, the radio link configuration change message defining a new meaning for a transport format set which represents a combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links, and to transmit a confirmation of receipt of this message and to apply the new common configuration on uplink transmissions after receipt of a configuration apply message.

37. (new) The method according to claim 18, wherein the new transport format set is identified by transport format combination indicator (TFCI) which

represents the combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links.

38. (new) The telecommunication system according to claim 26, wherein the new transport format set is identified by transport format combination indicator (TFCI) which represents the combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links.

39. (new) The network element according to claim 32, wherein the new transport format set is identified by transport format combination indicator (TFCI) which represents the combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links.

40. (new) The method according to claim 34, wherein the new transport format set is identified by transport format combination indicator (TFCI) which represents the combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links.

41. (new) The mobile terminal according to claim 36, wherein the new transport format set is identified by transport format combination indicator (TFCI) which represents the combination of valid radio link configuration parameters that can be used on the radio links.